Bus journey disaster (Friday 13th June 2014)

Characters (in order of appearance)

Narrator (Claire "Cerrie" Burnell – 1979-08-30 in Petts Wood, Bromley, South-East London) (34)

Grandma (Felicia Adhikari – Dad's mother, Mum's mother-in-law and Arimyriah and Arigbeniri's grandmother) (1930-08-30 in Mumbai, India) (funny, a bit clumsy, likes to knit and is getting too frail to take people out) (83)

Mum (Taryn Adhikari – Arimyriah and Arigbeniri's mother) (1976-09-12 in New Delhi, India) (loving, kind, a bit strict and must discipline her children at times) (37)

Rochelle (Taylor and Flora's mother) (1981-03-18 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia but grew up in Auckland, New Zealand and subsequently Seven Sisters, Haringey, North London) (loving, kind, almost always has her blonde hair in low bunches and rarely loses her temper) (33)

Mr Robert Carter (Taylor and Flora's stepfather) (1981-09-20 in Edgware, Barnet, North London) (loving, helpful, funny and rarely gets infuriated) (32)

Arigbeniri (2008-01-05 in Locksbottom, Bromley, South-East London – Arimyriah's younger brother) (happy, resourceful, respectful but can be a bit mischievous) (6)

Arimyriah (2006-10-17 in Locksbottom, Bromley, South-East London – Arigbeniri's older sister) (creative, likes to bake and food, cheerful but can be a bit naughty and throw tantrums when she does not get her way) (7)

Flora (2005-11-07 in Canberra, Australia – Taylor's younger sister) (tomboyish, sporty, understands Auslan – i.e. Australian Sign Language so uses it whenever she loses her voice and alternates between black rectangular-rimmed glasses and contact lenses) (8)

Taylor (2004-11-20 in Canberra, Australia – Flora's older brother) (bubbly, cheerful, sweet but can be quite naughty and throw temper tantrums when he does not get what he wants) (9)

Mrs Giovanna Newington (Mother of Tyler and Ginger and stepmother of Harry and Rene) (1986-07-21 in Whipps Cross, Waltham Forest, North-East London) (loves her children and

stepchildren a lot, knows what to say, tells people off when necessary and behaves maturely) (27)
Tyler (Ginger's older brother and Harry and Rene's older stepbrother) (2008-06-13 in Whipps Cross, Waltham Forest, North-East London) (funny, active, a caring boy and is never determined to give up) (6)
Ginger (Tyler's younger sister and Harry and Rene's older stepsister) (2009-04-11 in Whipps Cross, Waltham Forest, North-East London) (musical, creative, a lovely girl and loves to explore) (5)
Harry (Tyler and Ginger's younger stepbrother and Rene's older brother) (2009-09-26 in Dartford, Kent, South-East England) (fluent, handsome, morally courageous and a bit shy) (4)
Rene (Tyler and Ginger's younger stepsister and Harry's younger sister) (2010-12-31 in Dartford, Kent, South-East England) (very talkative, smart, kind and portrayed as an angel) (3)
Mr Odedara (Philip, William and Ruth's father – his forename is unknown) (1965-01-13 in Chennai, India) (caring father, rarely shouts, likes to make his children laugh and is a bit sensitive) (49)
Mrs Odedara (Philip, William and Ruth's mother – her forename is unknown) (1965-10-18 in Chennai, India) (motherly, likes to cook food, a very nice middle-aged woman, and treats her children well) (48)
Ruth (Oldest child of the Odedaras and the only daughter) (1995-11-27 in Croydon, Croydon, South London) (like a big sister, a maternal teenager, happy and proud to be the oldest child and is portrayed as a childminder) (18)
William (Middle child of the Odedaras) (1999-12-31 in Croydon, Croydon, South London) (a very sporty boy, very serious, smiles a lot but can be quite stubborn) (14)
Philip (Youngest child of the Odedaras) (2002-08-30 in Croydon, Croydon, South London) (likes to dress up, likes to sing, likes to play games in his garden and very sporty) (11)
Emma Hignett (Voice of the iBus)
The sentences in red and brackets are for the audio describer
Narrator: Asian-African siblings Arimyriah and Arigbeniri Adhikari had just arrived from school on Friday afternoon at 15:20. Friday was their favourite day because they were going to Philip,

William and Ruth's house at Peckham for Bible study, and they were going on the bus. They really could not wait!
(The siblings come out of their school cab and Mum comes and escorts them to the maisonette)
The Adhikari siblings: This is our favourite day because we get to go to Bible Study and for once, we are taking the bus!
Mum (she shuts the door to the outside): It is not the very first time you took a bus to that place. And I cannot come with you.
Arimyriah (curious): Why can't you come with us Mum?
Arigbeniri (more curious): Yes, why not?
Mum: I have a lot of things to do. I need to work on the computer and, I need to make a greeting card and prepare the surprise party for Dad who is coming back from India tomorrow.
Narrator: They then met Grandma who was knitting a new scarf for one of her grandchildren, Rochelle who was making a dress for one of her Oceanian friends and Mr Carter who was watching a drama on a new channel dubbed ITV Encore on Sky Channel 298.
The Adhikari siblings: Can Grandma take us instead of you?
Grandma (takes off her glasses, rolls her grey eyes anxiously then answers the siblings): Of course I cannot take you; I am at a fair age to be taking people out. I am getting very frail so I cannot take you to Peckham.
The Adhikari siblings: (curious): Who will take us then, if both of you cannot take us, who will?
Rochelle: Let's talk about the journey arrangements when my children arrive home from school.
Mr Carter: But for now, you can watch some television. I know you would want to watch it now, especially you Arimyriah, particularly because I replaced the one you had that was like boring Freeview and Freesat to a much more exciting one. Now what would you like to watch mixed-raced siblings?
Arimyriah: I would like to watch Nick Jr. 2 on Sky Channel 620.
Arigbeniri: No, I would like to watch Nicktoons on Sky Channel 606.
(Mr Carter gets confused so he counts to ten and then muses)
Mr Carter: Arigbeniri, because your sister asked first, she is going to watch the channel she asked for first for 15 minutes, then you can watch the channel you asked for, for 15 minutes.

(Mr Carter lends Arimyriah the black and silver Sky+HD remote and she changes the channel from ITV Encore on Sky Channel 298 to Nick Jr. 2 on Sky Channel 620)
Arimyriah (with bliss): I really like watching the pay channels on Sky, as well as the free-to-air channels. I would like to watch other kids channels apart from iconic CBeebies, CBBC, Tiny Pop, Pop, Pop Girl, Kix and Citv.
Narrator: Arimyriah was watching Nick Jr. 2 on Sky Channel 620 for 15 minutes. Then, she gave the remote to her brother so he could watch Nicktoons on Sky Channel 606 for 15 minutes.
Arigbeniri (with bliss): They're not showing SpongeBob, but at least I am watching my favourite pay channel Nicktoons.
(a car comes up to the Adhikaris' and Perrys' shared maisonette, Taylor and Flora have arrived from their school – titled Derrick Primary Free School at Peckham)
Rochelle: My children have arrived. (she leaves her dress that she is making and runs to the front door to collect her children from their school cab)
Narrator: When Taylor and Flora arrived from their school dubbed Derrick Primary Free School at Peckham, in Peckham, in the London Borough of Southwark in South-East London and had greeted the other adults, they wanted to get changed out of their school uniform, so did the younger children but Mr Carter called them for a family meeting.
All four children: Let's get changed. (They scramble to the smaller bedroom, but Mr Carter calls them all back to the living room as he must talk about the journey arrangements)
Mr Carter: Not so fast, I need to have a word with y'all. You are not in any trouble at all, I just want to talk to you about how we are going to get to that house in Peckham.
(the quartet sit down on the dining table and Mr Carter tells the children about how they will be getting to the Odedaras' house)
Mr Carter: This is how we will be getting to the Odedaras' house in Peckham – we will be taking the Bus Routes 138 or 162 from here to Bromley South or Beckenham, the Bus Routes 208, 261, 320 or 336 from Bromley South to Catford or Lewisham or the Bus Route 54 from Beckenham to Catford or Lewisham and the Bus Routes 136, 171 or 436 from Catford or Lewisham to Peckham. Before you ask me why we are taking buses, I am not keen to drive and before you ask me why I am unkeen to drive, my car is quite old, and you might laugh at the interior.

Flora: Good, buses are more fun than boring old cars anyways. I particularly love the double-decker buses, especially as I can sit at the top deck.
Mr Carter: Er, don't be saying that about cars Flora. By the way, you can now go and get changed.
Narrator: The children went to the adults' bedroom (later the children's bedroom as of 8th October 2014) and got changed out of their school uniform. It had a double bed, one chest of drawers with four levels, four wardrobes, a window with some blue curtains with white checks, a black CD player, lots of CDs, a recently installed Bush television and a white version of the popular Sky+HD box that had full subscription including the HD pay channels and on demand.
Taylor: I am removing my black school shoes, my grey socks, my blue school jumper, my grey shorts and my white short-sleeved shirt. I am now wearing my powder blue socks, my dark blue jeans, my pale blue long-sleeved polo shirt and my best navy-blue coat. I am wearing a pair of blue trainers on my two feet.
Flora: I am removing my black Mary Jane shoes, my white long socks, my blue school cardigan and my light blue and white checked playsuit. I am now wearing orange socks, an orange ¾-sleeved shirt with a giant sparkly heart, blue jeans with butterflies on them and a black fluffy sleeveless jacket. I am wearing a pair of orange trainers on my two feet. Not to mention, my purple hairband with a flower on facing the right that I wore to school is retained.
Arimyriah: I am removing my black school shoes, my white socks, my red cardigan, my grey skirt and my white short-sleeved shirt. I am now wearing my light pink socks, my dark pink trousers, my hot pink long-sleeved shirt with white spots and my best pink coat. I am also wearing a pair of pink trainers on my two feet.
Arigbeniri: I am removing my black school shoes, my grey socks, my red sweatshirt, my grey trousers and my white short-sleeved shirt. I am now wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, my best khaki trousers, my beloved computer socks and my beloved black leather jacket. I am wearing a pair of tank brown trainers on my two feet.

Narrator: The four children went to show Grandma, Mum, Rochelle and Mr Carter what they were wearing out to Bible Study.
(They sprint out of their bedroom and into the sitting room where the four adults are waiting)
Grandma: Children you look glamorous.
Mum: Very perfect and beautiful.
Rochelle: You are looking so colourful.
Mr Carter: I agree with you Rochelle. Now, spaghetti is calling your names children.
Narrator: The four children went into the uncomfortable kitchen to collect their food. They were eating spaghetti with meatballs and sprinkled with cheddar cheese. Taylor's food was on a light blue plate, Flora's food was on an orange plate, Arimyriah's food was on a pink plate and Arigbeniri's food was on a green plate.
All four children (with bliss): Thanks a lot. (They go to the living room's dining table in the living room and tuck in)
Grandma (putting light blue, orange, pink and green plastic cups on the table): Children, I have put cups with your food. Do you want apple or orange juice?
All four children: Apple please.
(Grandma pours some apple juice into the children's cups)
All four children: Thanks a lot.
Narrator: The children tucked into their meal looking excited to go to a place in the London Borough of Southwark in South and South-East London.
(when the children have finished their lunches, they take their plates to the kitchen and put them in the sink)
Narrator: After the children had finished eating, Mr Carter called them into the children's room (known as the adults' room as of 8th October 2014) for another family meeting. This time it was regarding the rules of when they stepped out to the house to go to Peckham. The rules were for everybody, especially the older Caucasian children as they were naughtier than the younger Asian-African children.
(the children enter the room and sit on the double bed, Mr Carter is already wearing his beloved blue Mountain Equipment waterproof coat)
Mr Carter: Hello children, these are the rules when we step out of here and proceed to the Odedaras' house in Peckham. Always stay close to me, no running, cross the road safely, no violence

and on top of that, no misbehaving on the bus and causing us to get kicked out. Behave yourself, refrain from taking too much food and resist throwing tantrums when we are in the house. Do you understand?
The Adhikari siblings: Yes, we do understand.
(The Perry siblings do not really listen to their stepfather and whistle over him)
Mr Carter (getting a little infuriated): Taylor and Flora, I said 'Do you understand?'
The Perry siblings: Of course we do.
Mr Carter (joyfully): Yee-ha! Let's giddy up and see Philip, William and Ruth.
(Mr Carter unlocks the front door and the children follow him outside the maisonette, they walk downstairs and go to the nearest bus stop)
Mr Carter: What bus do we take from here?
Arimyriah: Bus Route 162 going towards Beckenham Junction.
Mr Carter: Okay Arimyriah.
(The quintet sits on a bus stop and wait for bus 162 – with the blinds saying, 'Beckenham Junction', they must wait for fifteen minutes)
Narrator: After the long wait bus 162 eventually came and the two girls, two boys and one thirty-two-year-old man got on desperately.
Emma Hignett: 162 to Beckenham Junction.
Arimyriah (average decibel of talking): I love buses.
Arigbeniri: So, do I.
Mr Carter: I like driving, almost as much as taking Transport for London's buses.
Narrator: When the bus was almost where it terminated, the children were happier.
Emma Hignett: The Chinese Garage
(the bus comes to a halt and an old woman gets off and two men and one child gets on the single-decker bus)
Emma Hignett: 162 to Beckenham Junction.
Arimyriah: We're almost at Beckenham Junction.
Narrator: When the bus got to Beckenham Junction Station, Rectory Road, not only Arigbeniri, Arimyriah, Flora, Taylor and Mr Carter got off, as did the other people! As Bus Route 162 terminated at Beckenham Junction.

Emma Hignett: This bus terminates here, please take all your belongings with you.
(the bus driver rolls the blinds until they say Eltham Station – bus 162's second location)
Narrator: When the children and Mr Carter got off bus 162, they did not wait for another bus as bus 54 was waiting gallantly like a stallion horse at the bus stop. It said "Elmer's End" although it was going towards Woolwich.
Mr Carter: Children, The Bus Route 54 is here so let's go inside.
All four children (extremely excited): Great we like bus 54!
Mr Carter: Children, we are going upstairs so follow me… NOW!
(Arigbeniri and the girls happily follow her Mr Carter upstairs, but Taylor just walks slowly because going upstairs on double-decker buses is like eating toast without jam – not very nice)
Flora (adjusts her contact lens in her right eye): I like going upstairs, after all, I can see things that are far away.
Taylor: I do not really like going upstairs, I want to see the door. (he drags his feet unenthusiastically)
Mr Carter (getting worked up): Taylor don't start that. Listening is really not an optional task; it is compulsory that you do as you are told. You are staying upstairs and that is a capital final. Sit next to Arigbeniri.
Narrator: Taylor dragged himself to the seat next to the mixed-raced boy, then the bus started moving to Lewisham.
Emma Hignett: 54 to Woolwich
(the front doors close)
Flora and Arigbeniri: We am very happy we got our way.
Arimyriah: I prefer to be downstairs too, but after all, listening is really not optional at all. I have to do as I am told.
Taylor: Me, I am not happy at all, I want to be on the BOTTOM DECK, or go on a single-decker bus.
Mr Carter (getting more worked up): Taylor Donovan Perry, top deck – yes, double-decker – yes, bottom deck – no, single-decker – no. You are staying upstairs with your sister, the Asian-African siblings and I. Look, Arimyriah prefers to be downstairs as well, she is two years younger than you and she is far from protesting.
(One of the bus bells rings when Emma Hignett says Beckenham Hill Road/Primrose Close)
Narrator: Taylor was about to cry but eventually, Mr Carter gave in and took the children downstairs.

Mr Carter: Alright, let's go downstairs. (he grabs his old and tatty green rucksack, and the four children follow him downstairs, but when they want to go…)
(The back door downstairs closes)
Taylor (shocked): Oh (bleep) Jesus Christ!
Narrator: The bus started to move when the quintet was about to go downstairs.
Mr Carter: The bus is moving so we must wait.
Taylor (sighs then responds): Huhhhhhh, okay!
Narrator: The bus had stopped so the quintet quickly went downstairs.
Taylor (happily): I am happy that we are finally going downstairs after a major battle.
The other children: We get to sit where we desire.
(The quintet sits at the five blue back seats with orange and red 'beachballs' in ascending age order – Arigbeniri sits on the first seat, Arimyriah sits on the second seat, Flora sits on the third seat in the middle, Taylor sits on the fourth seat and Mr Carter sits on the fifth and last seat)
Mr Carter: Are you happy now Taylor?
Taylor (more happily): YES, I'M HAPPY NOW! (he shouts for joy but his younger sister Flora, the Adhikari siblings and Mr Carter shush him)
Narrator: When the bus was at Lewisham, Arigbeniri pressed the nearest bus bell and the current time under the iBus got replaced by 'Bus stopping' and the bus came to a halt.
Mr Carter: We must get off bus 54 now.
(when the quintet get off bus 54, they wait for their last bus they must take before they get to Peckham, bus 136. It takes seven minutes to wait)
Mr Carter (in a neutral voice): Bus Route 136 is here so hop on!
All four children (the loudest of all): YES, IT'S THE BUS ROUTE 136!
Mr Carter: Reduce your voices please.
Narrator: When the quintet was on bus 136, Taylor developed nervousness and timidness.
Taylor (timidly): Are we going upstairs stepdaddy?
Mr Carter (in a firm voice): Of course we are Taylor.
Narrator: Taylor was getting terribly upset, but his sister Flora asked him to come upstairs to meet some people that he knows.

Flora: Come upstairs and you will see your friends who reside in Stoke Newington in a North-East London borough called Hackney.
(Taylor reluctantly does so)
Narrator: Upstairs, the four children and Mr Carter met the Newington-Green family – 27-year-old Giovanna Newington was the mother of now 6-year-old Tyler and 5-year-old Ginger and the stepmother of 4-year-old Harry and 3-year-old Rene, they were all sitting down. They were also going to the Odedaras' house in Peckham, in spite of them not being churchmates with the Adhikaris and Perrys.
Emma Hignett: 136 to Elephant and Castle
(Both the front and back doors close)
The Newington-Green family: Hello everybody.
Everybody but Taylor (excitedly): Hello Giovanna, Tyler, Ginger, Harry and Rene. And happy sixth birthday Tyler!
Taylor (upset): Hello…Giovanna…Tyler…Ginger…Harry…and Rene. And unhappy birthday Tyler (he is about to cry but Mr Carter prevents him from doing it)
Giovanna: It is not like you to be unhappy Taylor. Especially on my son's sixth birthday. Don't wish my son a very UNHAPPY birthday. Wish him a brilliant happy birthday.
Emma Hignett: Malpas Road
(Various passengers press multiple bus bells, some upstairs, some downstairs and they go out via the back door)
(The back doors close and make a noise)
Emma Hignett: 136 to Elephant and Castle
Tyler: What is the matter, Taylor? It's my sixth birthday today so you cannot afford to be upset.
Ginger: Tell me what's the matter Taylor and I will tell your stepdaddy to help you.
Harry: You can't have the blues, especially on my stepbrother's sixth birthday.
Rene: I am very worried about you Taylor. Tell me what the problem is so I can help you.
Mr Carter (grimly): The Newington-Green siblings, leave my stepson alone, he ought to be beaten! (his face looks tempting) He should be beaten as he is being a naughty boy.
Narrator: Everyone was sitting quietly and behaving, everyone that was except for Taylor who was longing to be downstairs.
Taylor: I want to be downstairs!

Mr Carter (sighs then speaks grimly): Huhhhh! Taylor, upstairs you can see... (Giovanna stops him because she wants to oversee the matter herself)
Giovanna: Let me oversee this, Robert. Taylor, upstairs you can see buildings, houses, shops, other buses, bus stops and other things from far away.
Rene: You can even see the big Sainsbury's but downstairs, you can barely see them at all.
Narrator: Taylor forgot about wanting to be downstairs and listened to Giovanna and her stepdaughter Rene. He was insisting he was feeling a bit better.
Taylor (cheers up after listening to the duo who spoke to him): You know, I actually feel a little better. (but he starts to grab her Ginger to take her downstairs, so he is still feeling sad)
Ginger (getting angry): What are you doing to me? MUMMY HELP ME!
Narrator: Giovanna was busy helping her son and stepchildren, so Mr Carter helped Ginger instead.
Mr Carter (he breathes heavily): What is happening to you Ginger?
Ginger (needing help): Mr Carter, Taylor is squeezing my hand too tightly in attempt to take me downstairs, but I really do not want to go so help me, Carter.
Mr Carter: Taylor Donovan Perry, I cannot tolerate your behaviour at all in public transport, so you really need to stop NOW!
Giovanna: Because my son Tyler has turned six today, I have a birthday cake with light blue icing, a colourful rainbow and it says 'Happy sixth birthday Tyler' for us to share at the Odedaras' house but I will have to eat Taylor's slice because he is currently being naughty.
Narrator: When they were approaching the Odedaras' house, Flora pressed the nearest bell and the Adhikaris, the Perrys, the Newington-Greens and Mr Carter lined up to get off the bus.
Everyone: Thank you, driver.
(The back door closes, and the eight children and two adults walked to the Odedaras' house, it is just a stone throw)
Giovanna: Children, we are going to see the Odedaras, and we really do not want you to behave badly. Am I clear?
All eight children: Yes.

Narrator: When they arrived, Mr Carter pressed the bell and Mr Odedara (the father of the Odedara family) opens the door.
Mr Odedara: Good evening, everyone. How are you doing?
Everyone: We are fine.
(The eight visitors go into the Odedaras' living room where they meet the Odedara siblings eighteen-year-old Ruth, fourteen-year-old William and eleven-year-old Philip)
All eight children: Hello Ruth, William and Philip.
The Odedara siblings: Hey y'all!
Mr Odedara: How was the journey, Robert?
Narrator: Mr Carter related the story of the terrible bus journey to Mr Odedara. Then Mr Carter, Giovanna and the eight children followed each other to the Odedaras' kitchen where the Odedaras' mother Mrs Odedara was preparing a pasta bake. She was making it from scratch.
(Mrs Odedara boils penne pasta, gets some cheddar cheese, some precooked mincemeat, and some tomato sauce, puts them in an ovenproof dish with lid and inserts it into the oven. Then she gets some salmon, squeezes it with lime juice, cuts some ginger and adds it to the salmon and puts the fish in the oven to cool)
Rene: What is for dinner tonight, Mrs Odedara?
Mrs Odedara: Pasta bake with garlic bread and salmon with lime and ginger.
Mr Carter (in a neutral voice): Come on children, let us go to the sitting room and let Ruth's mummy get on with her cooking please.
All eight children: Okay.
Narrator: Rene, Harry, Ginger, Tyler, Arigbeniri, Arimyriah, Flora and Taylor followed Mr Carter to the living room where Ruth, William and Philip were watching television on the Odedaras' Sky+HD TV Box on their JVC television.
Taylor (desperately): Can I watch some television please, please, please, please, PLEASE? (his voice gets louder)
(Ruth hesitates but agrees to let the visitors watch some TV)
Ruth (she takes deep breaths): Yes, you may but just for fifteen minutes because we will start at half past seven and now it is quarter past.
Narrator: Taylor was half happy and half unhappy because he was watching TV but just for a quarter of an hour. It was not much fun!

(he switches the TV Channel from Sky Channel 103 that is ITV HD to Channel 622 that is Disney XD in standard definition)
Taylor (with bliss): I am happy that I am watching my favourite channel Disney XD, my sister likes this channel as well. Furthermore, Phineas and Ferb is on TV. I am more than happy!
Rene: You will not watch TV for long. Like Ruth said, you must watch for limited time. You have ten minutes left.
(Taylor hangs his head sadly)
Narrator: At half past seven, Ruth told Taylor…
Ruth: Sorry Taylor, it is time to turn off the television, the bible study is about to start. (she gives Taylor the JVC remote)
(Taylor reluctantly switches off the television and he is about to burst into tears, but Mr Carter and Giovanna talk sternly to him)
Mr Carter (in a grumpy voice): Taylor…
Giovanna (sternly): You had limited TV time. Now it is time for the bible study to start.
The other seven children (giving advice to Taylor): You can play outside in the Odedaras' garden until Mrs Odedara calls us for dinner… and birthday cake!
Mr Carter (in a firm voice): Taylor's not allowed birthday cake after his behaviour on Bus Route 136. By the way, thank you for your advice.
Taylor: Okay! (he is feeling a bit better)
Narrator: At last, Taylor stopped thinking about TV and happily played some basketball along with his younger sister Flora, Arimyriah, Arigbeniri, Tyler, Ginger, Harry and with help from her 27-year-old stepmother, little Rene in the Odedaras' back garden. They were playing outside until…
(Mrs Odedara comes to the Odedaras' garden to call the eight children and Giovanna for food)
Mrs Odedara: Children, dinner!
Narrator: The eight children and Giovanna raced to the kitchen to take their food. There was pasta bake, slices of garlic bread and some lime and ginger salmon. There is also a choice of red grape juice or lemonade.
Mrs Odedara: Help yourselves to food and drink everyone.
Mr Carter (sternly): I'm going to be seeing the quantity of your food on your plate children. So, you must be very careful. (he takes some of the pasta bake, one slice of garlic bread and some of the salmon – he pours some red grape juice in a glass and goes to the sitting room to eat)

Narrator: The children (with the exception of little Rene) were so excited that they put a lot of the pasta bake, a slice of garlic bread each and lots of salmon on their plates. They took tall glasses and helped themselves to the drinks many times. Giovanna got Rene a purple plastic bowl, put some of the pasta bake in it along with a small piece of the salmon. And because little children were disallowed from taking lemonade and sparkling drinks, she took Rene's beaker and filled it with orange Robinsons along with some cold water. Then, they went to the Odedaras' dining table and tucked in.

(The eight children eat happily but they hear Mr Carter's grumpy voice)

Mr Carter: Taylor, what are you doing? I said I am going to see the quantity of your food.

Narrator: Every child except Taylor came to the sofa Mr Carter was sitting on with their plates. First, Mr Carter saw Rene's purple bowl of food.

Mr Carter: The quantity of your food is enough.

Rene: Thank you, Mr Carter!

Mr Carter: You're welcome, Rene.

Narrator: Next, he checked Harry's plate of food, then Ginger's, then Tyler's (a.k.a the birthday boy), then Arigbeniri's then Arimyriah's and then Flora's. The quantity was exactly right.

Mr Carter: Taylor, can you bring your plate please?

(Taylor reluctantly gets his plate of food from the dining table)

Mr Carter: Taylor, this is too much. Can you get a bowl please?

Taylor: Okay! (he goes to the kitchen and gets a ceramic bowl and Mr Carter puts some of the pasta and salmon in it)

Mr Carter: You can now enjoy your dinner!

All eight children: YES!!! (They jump for joy and march back to the dining table)

Narrator: The eight children were enjoying their dinner. Giovanna was enjoying feeding her three-year-old stepdaughter Rene the food and her orange squash from her beaker.

(After the eight children have finished eating, Mr Carter takes Taylor out of sitting room)

Mr Carter (irate): TAYLOR GET OUT RIGHT THIS MINUTE! Before you ask why, Giovanna is going to cut Taylor's cake and you do not deserve a slice at all. Before you ask why, you do not deserve a slice at all, because you were being naughty on the

Bus Route 136. (he struggles to get Taylor off his chair but does it eventually and drags him to the ‘box room’ upstairs)
Giovanna (takes six blue birthday candles from her bag, along with a blue number six candle and matches): Now Taylor is gone, let’s sing happy birthday to my son.
Narrator: Giovanna put six blue birthday candles on Taylor’s blue cake with the rainbow and a number six candle, took a match, lit it and used it on the six and a half candles.
The eleven people present (singing): Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Tyler, happy birthday to you.
Ginger: Blow the candles out and make your wish big brother.
(Tyler blows out his candles and makes a wish, Giovanna goes into the kitchen to get ten clean plates)
Narrator: The ten children were going to share Tyler’s birthday cake.
Giovanna: When I give you a slice of cake, you will say a number.
Rene: One.
Harry: Two.
Ginger: Three.
Tyler: Four.
Arigbeniri: Five.
Arimyriah: Seven.
Ruth: SEVEN? You missed out six.
Giovanna: Remember Taylor is not having any.
Arimyriah: Sorry, six.
Flora: Seven.
Philip: Eight.
William: Nine.
Ruth: TEN!
Narrator: When the ten children were tucking into their slices of birthday cake, Giovanna let Tyler and Arimyriah share the last slice as Taylor did not deserve any cake and she did not want the last slice to go to waste.
(Mr Carter’s phone rings)
Mr Carter: That is my phone.
Narrator: Mum and Rochelle were on the phone to ask how the day had been so far.
(he presses answer)
Mr Carter: Hello Rochelle and Mrs Adhikari.

Rochelle (on the phone, in her London accent): Hello Robert, are you enjoying the trip so far?
Mr Carter: No Rochelle.
Rochelle (on the phone): Why not Robert?
Mr Carter: Because Taylor kept insisting on staying downstairs on buses 54 and 136 then he took an extensive portion of food.
Rochelle (on the phone): Oh Christ, that's not good. Mrs Adhikari wants to talk to you too.
Mum (on the phone): How were my children Mr Carter?
Mr Carter: They were very good. Arimyriah does not like staying upstairs, but because she was perfect, she did as she was told and went there.
Mum (on the phone): That's a good point, my daughter dislikes going upstairs but I am glad she did not at all protest. See you later.
(she goes off the line)
Narrator: Everyone was enjoying themselves until it was time to go home.
(Mr Carter unlocks the front door of the Odedaras' house)
Mr Carter: Everyone, it is time to go now.
(Giovanna, Mr Carter, Taylor, Flora, Arimyriah, Arigbeniri, Tyler, Ginger, Harry and Rene exit the house)
All eight children (loudest of all): BYE!
The Odedaras: Goodbye everybody. (Mr Odedara locks the door)
Narrator: The ten people were waiting for bus 136 to take them back to Lewisham. It took only one minute.
(bus 136 approaches the eight people waiting on the bus stop)
Everyone: The bus is here.
Narrator: Inside bus 136, everybody stayed downstairs, and Taylor was happy. Naturally, Arimyriah was happy too, as she preferred to stay downstairs as well as Taylor. But that made Flora, Arigbeniri, Tyler, Ginger, Harry and Rene unhappy.
Emma Hignett: 136 to Grove Park
(Both the front and back doors close – the back doors sound weird)
The Adhikari siblings: The back doors sound unusual.
Giovanna: Yes, they sound very irritating.
Emma Hignett: Marquis of Granbury Goldsmiths.
(Various passengers press multiple bus bells, some upstairs, some downstairs and they go out via the back door)
(The back doors close and make the annoying sound)

Emma Hignett: 136 to Grove Park
Taylor (happily): I am so happy that I am staying downstairs.
Rene: You will not be for long. This is just a one-off Taylor.
Mr Carter: I don't really like staying downstairs. And FYI…
Taylor: (curious): What does FYI mean?
Mr Carter: For your information, the next bus, we are going upstairs. Not only that, but we may also be going on a Bus Route that goes to Bromley.
(Taylor hangs his head in unhappiness)
Narrator: When the bus was at Lewisham, Harry pressed the nearest bus bell and the current time under the iBus got replaced by 'Bus stopping' and the bus came to a halt.
Giovanna: We must get off the bus now and wait for Bus 21 whereas you must catch the 54, 261 or 208 bus.
Narrator: When the ten people got off, the Newington-Greens boarded bus 21. Meanwhile, Taylor was expecting bus 54 but outside the bus that he saw is…
(The back door closes, and the eight children and two adults get off. They see a man with an umbrella of the Union Jack outside bus 208 – the bus Taylor was not expecting)
Man with umbrella: Here is your bus, the one that goes to Bromley.
Narrator: Taylor was not expecting bus 208 but he had no choice but to get on it. He tried to elude boarding the bus by running past it.
Mr Carter (grimly): That's our bus Taylor.
Taylor (now in tears): Okay, I'm reluctantly getting on. (he reluctantly does so and follows everyone upstairs in tears)
Mr Carter (crossly): CAN YOU PLEASE STOP CRYING TAYLOR?!
Flora: You must stop this stupid behaviour now bro.
Emma Hignett: 208 to Orpington, Perry Hall Road
(the front and back doors close)
Narrator: Taylor really wasn't behaving on the bus because he wanted to go on bus 54. He tried (unsuccessfully) to make the quintet get off and wait for it. He made all sorts of poor choices.
Taylor (tearfully): But I wanted to go on bus 54.
(everyone ignores Taylor because they are fed up with his naughtiness)
Emma Hignett: The Catford Centre
(Various passengers press multiple bus bells, some upstairs, some downstairs and they go out via the back door)

(The back doors close)
Emma Hignett: 208 to Orpington, Perry Hall Road
Narrator: Taylor started to misbehave even more. He grabbed his sister's arm in attempt to take her downstairs, but Flora really didn't want to go there.
Flora (getting angry): Stop it, Taylor! I really don't want to go downstairs so STEPDADDY, HELP!
Mr Carter (getting as angry as his stepdaughter): What the hell is Taylor doing to you Flora?
Flora (terribly upset): Stepdaddy, my brother is trying to take me downstairs, but I really do not want to go so HELP ME STEPDADDY!
Mr Carter: Taylor, really?! I am so angry with you now. (he moves Taylor away from his sister and next to him – on the same seat) Sit down!
Taylor: Does bus 75 take us home?
Mr Carter (sounds less angry): 75 goes to Croydon Taylor.
Taylor: What about bus 199?
Mr Carter: 199 goes to Canada Water Taylor.
Taylor: 261 takes us home. Doesn't it?
Mr Carter: 261 takes us home but it goes via Grove Park in lieu of Catford.
Narrator: When bus 208 stopped at Rosenthal Road, the male driver went upstairs and told the quintet that they had to leave the bus instantly.
The bus driver: I am sorry you five, but you are going to have to leave right this second – TFL neither tolerates violence nor bratty Aussies.
Mr Carter (infuriated): My son is not a bratty Aussie, he just has anger issues, he throws tantrums and misbehaves when he does not get his way. (his tone changes) C'mon folks, let's go.
Flora: But we are still at Catford, and we need to get to Bromley South stepdaddy.
Mr Carter: But your brother is really misbehaving, and the bus driver does not tolerate his bad behaviour..
(The four children and Mr Carter get off bus 208 – they are cold and sad, but Taylor is happy because they are going on bus 54. They sit on a bus stop)
Mr Carter (a bit angry): Look what you have made us to do Taylor.
Flora (shivering): I am freezing cold!

Mr Carter (as cold as his stepdaughter): So am I Flora. Can you see any 54 Taylor?
Taylor: No stepdaddy.
(various buses come and go but no bus 54 going towards Elmer's End)
Narrator: The quintet had to wait for an awfully long time for bus 54. Everybody (Taylor was an exception) was very cold and sad. But just in time, it came.
Taylor: My favourite bus is here.
(he impatiently hops on and scrambles for the seat at the very back downstairs – everyone else follow on)
Emma Hignett: 54 to Elmer's End
(the front and back doors close)
Narrator: Ahhhh, peace at last on the bus. Nobody argued and nobody fell out. For once, the quintet enjoyed a bus ride in peace.
(One of the bus bells rings when Emma Hignett says Bromley Road, The Pond)
(The back door downstairs opens and closes)
Emma Hignett: 54 to Elmer's End
Narrator: The quintet was enjoying themselves on bus 54 and on bus 367. Mr Carter did not have to shout at all on the two buses. When they got home…
(Everybody climbs the stairs of Flat 4, Mr Carter knocks the door, and his current wife Rochelle unlocks it)
Rochelle (in her London accent): Hello Robert.
Mum: Hello Mr Carter.
Mr Carter (in a kind voice): Hi Rochelle and Mrs Adhikari.
Narrator: In flat 4, Mr Carter told the mothers about the bus journey to and from the Odedaras'. He also told Mum about Arimyriah not being reluctant to go upstairs and told Rochelle about Taylor's woeful behaviour on Bus Routes 54, 136 and 208. Mum beamed at Arimyriah, Rochelle smiled at Flora and scolded Taylor.
Mum (beaming): I am so proud of both of you. I am particularly proud of you Arimyriah, especially because even though you dislike going upstairs on London's double-decker buses, you kept that thought to yourself and actually went there. (she kisses her daughter on the right cheek)
Rochelle (smiling): Flora, I am so happy with you, you had a good time on both the buses and the family friend's house. (her

tone changes) TAYLOR DONOVAN PERRY, YOU ABSOLUTELY NAUGHTY BOY, MY HUSBAND TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE CONSTANTLY MISBEHAVING ON BUS ROUTES 54, 136 AND 208, ALL BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO BE DOWNSTAIRS! HOW DARE YOU HAVE THE NERVE AND AUDACITY TO DO THAT! (she slaps Taylor all over his body with one of her belts)

Narrator: To prepare for bed, the children had a shower in the newly renovated shower room, put on their pyjamas, had hot chocolate and a chocolate chip muffin, brushed their teeth and Mum read them a bedtime story dubbed ‘A little fairy magic’ to them in their room before drifting off to sleep. I wonder what they will dream of.

THE END